

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 16 were presented in the application upon filing. In the first Office Action of November 18, 2004, claims 1-12 were allowed, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claims 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not stated by the examiner, applicants assume that claim 16, dependent on claim 15, would also fall into the latter category, i.e. would be deemed allowable. By this amendment, dependent claim 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 13 and therefore has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 13 now contains patentable subject matter and therefore should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, allowance of claims 1-13, 15 and 16, and passing the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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